

First Peter 3:5-6
Biblical Principles of Godward Marriage part 3

Purpose: To encourage Christian wives to look at OT examples of Godward living

Introduction: But someone might ask, “Are there any examples the women can look to so they may learn to imitate them?” The answer is yes, as found in 3:5-6.

- 1) There are some general examples of Godward wives in the OT—3:5 ⁵ *For in this way* [οὕτω γάρ] *also ... were constantly adorning* [impf. act. ind. κοσμέω] *themselves* [ἑαυτοῦ]
 - a) When did they live? *formerly* [ποτέ]
 - b) Who were these women?
 - i) Holy OT women—*the holy women* [ἅγιος γυνή]
 - (1) Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Moses’ mother, Rahab, widow at Zarephath, widow at Shunem, etc.
 - ii) Hopeful OT women—*who were characterized by confidently hoping* [pres. act. ptc. ἐλπίζω] *on God* [ἐπί θεός]
 - (1) See 1:15
 - (2) Hope is an expression of one’s faith in God based upon His revealed promise. It can be referred to as hope in future grace.
 - (3) A woman does not submit to her husband because he is superior to her intellectually or spiritually. She submits to her husband because she is confident that God will ultimately reward all those who put their trust in Him.
 - c) When were they doing this? *while submitting* [pres. pass. ptc. ὑποτάσσω] *to their own husbands* [ἰδιος ἀνὴρ],
- 2) There is a specific example of a Godward woman in the OT—3:6
 - a) Sarah’s Godward attitude toward Abraham—3:6a ⁶ *as* [ὥς] *Sarah ...*
 - i) Submissive, attentive listening—*obeyed* [aor. act. ind. ὑπακούω] *Abraham*,
 - (1) Perhaps referring specifically to Genesis 12 & 20.
 - (2) At the same time, note how Abraham chose to go along with Sarah’s suggestions on at least 3 occasions: Genesis 16:2, 6; 21:9-14.
 - (3) A woman’s obedience is not to be absolute. She should never sin against God or her conscience.
 - ii) Respectful—*calling* [pres. act. ptc. καλέω] *him lord/sir* [κύριος],
 - (1) Refers to a casual situation in Genesis 18:12. Her respect for Abraham was part of the very fabric of her everyday life.
 - (2) Remember the difficult circumstances that Abraham put Sarah into? She still respected him, in spite of some poor decisions.
 - b) Sarah’s Godward descendants—3:6b *whose* [fem. ὅς] *daughters* [fem. τέκνον] *you become* [aor. dep. ind. γίνομαι] ...
 - Sarah physically bore one child: her son Isaac. She had no daughters.

- i) Beneficial activity—*by doing good* [pres. act. ptc. ἀγαθοποιέω]
 - (1) Remember the Godward woman in Proverbs 31:12.
 - (2) Reflecting the image of ...
 - (a) God the Father (LXX in Psalm 13:5; 57:2; 116:7)
 - (b) God the Son (Acts 10:38).
 - (3) All Christians are expected to do good (Romans 2:4; 1st Peter 2:15, 20; 3:17; 4:19).
 - (4) Don't grow weary while doing good (Galatians 6:9; 2nd Thessalonians 3:13).
 - ii) Trusting attitude—*and not* [μή] *being frightened* [pres. dep. ptc. φοβέω] *by any* [μηδείς] *intimidation* [πτόησις].
 - (1) Sarah's only recorded fear was when God the Son confronted her for laughing at His promise of a son for her and Abraham (Genesis 18:15).
 - (2) Our culture tries to intimidate Christian wives by attacking Biblical values.
 - (3) Some husbands use various forms of sinful, intimidation/abuse to get what they want for themselves.
 - (a) Emotional, financial, verbal, and physical
 - iii) Don't fear the potential consequences of doing the right thing. Let God handle those things. Probably refers back to Proverbs 3:25-26.
- 3) Summary and applications
- a) Women:
 - i) Pursue these (11 or so) characteristics of a Godward woman: submissive, pure, lives in the awe of God, a focus on eternity, non-assertive, tranquil, holy, hoping in God, attentively obedient, does good, and is not being intimidated
 - ii) A believing wife will not always behave in a way that pleases her husband. At times, her loyalty to God will transcend her duties to her husband. In such cases she is not to fear her husband but rather hope in God, trusting that God will vindicate her on the last day.
 - b) Men:
 - i) Pray for your wife that she would be a daughter of Sarah.
 - (1) Young men, look for a young woman who is becoming a daughter of Sarah.
 - ii) Live with your wife in an understanding way, which we will address next time. This is part of her battle in the Christian walk. Walk graciously with her.
- 4) **Take-home truth:** God's grace enables women to become Sarah's daughters